

The Goodwill Messenger

Published by the Village Church of Cummington

Minister: Rev. Jon Rehmus

Church Office: 634-5508

Service 10:00 AM, 1st & 3rd Sundays

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cummingtonvillagechurch.org

Village Church—Open and Affirming—You are welcome here

Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

We are all faced with the same demographic trend. Everywhere the meaning that goes with aging is apparent, for us as elders, as children and caregivers, and as people experiencing social patterns in a region estimated to have, in 10-15 years, 50% more people over the age of 65. Even young people evaluating economic opportunities are faced with issues currently related to aging, death, and these social patterns.

That is why I invite you to two programs taking place in January. The first is a discussion series based on the well-written book, *Being Mortal*, which looks at the housing, care, and social choices elders are faced with. Facilitated by Peg Whalen, Regional Outreach Coordinator for the Council on Aging, the discussion series meets at the Community House library starting January 12. More information about the series is available in this month's Good Will Messenger.

The second program is our Sunday service on January 17 at 10 AM. I will be co-leading the service with Ben Towsley, the hospice chaplain at Cooley Dickenson Hospital. Our service will lift up the values of dignity and caregiving especially, and after fellowship at 11:30 AM, Ben has offered a Q & A period for those with questions or issues related to end-of-life phases. I hope church circles will extend my invitation personally to all those—caregivers, families, all—who could benefit from this service and program.

With good open discourse joining dignity, resolve, and hard-caring work, we can address these issues successfully and together.

In Faith and Service,

Jon

January At the Village Church

No Worship Service, Sunday, January 3

Next Service, January 17

January 8, 7 PM—Friday Night Café, Sarah Stockwell and Friends present an Anti-Pipeline Concert Fundraiser. This will be a great one!

January 7, 14, 21, 28—Yoga 4:00–5:30 PM, Silent Meditation 5:45–6:15 PM

January 15, 7 PM—Friday Night Jam

January 17, 10 AM—Service with Ben Towsley, Hospice Chaplain

January 22—Friday Night Café, Rachel Laitman

To rent the church space for classes, concerts, meetings, etc., please call Scott at 634-5084. The church charges a very nominal fee to cover upkeep & heat. We love having the building used!!

Ministry Hours and Peaceful Thursdays

Yoga—Meditation—Bells

From Rev. Jon: until January 17, I will be on a more limited schedule, coming to Cummington mostly on Thursday afternoons and checking email sporadically. You are welcome to telephone, 413-624-3025. In case of emergencies or if you seek 24-hour turn-around, please do call and leave a message.

Thursdays at 4ish you can find me at our lovely church. This winter, Darlene Graham and I again invite you to sow awareness and peace into your approach to the weekend with these body-mind exercises:

Yoga, 4:00—5:30 PM Silent Meditation, 5:45—6:15 PM

Feel free to attend either program or both. Those who would like to ring the church bells—reminding all of us to breathe peace into our lives—can also arrive at the conclusion of meditation.

A Happy and Blessed New Year to All!!

Mary Poppins and Thanks

Heather Williams—whose Christmas Eve duet with Kim Wachtel was a glittering musical experience—plays the starring role in *Mary Poppins* at UMass' Bowker Auditorium, January 14–17 and 21–24. Stephen Williams is also in the show: go to www.alsct.org or call 413-259-3065 for times and tickets. Along with Heather and her graciousness to be with us Christmas Eve, a rousing THANK YOU goes to so many who, from the Advent Feast to the Messiah Sing, helped out with holiday programs.

Santa in Cummington

Santa Claus came to Cummington on Saturday Dec. 12 about 9:30 AM to see the children at the gazebo on Main Street.

To the surprise of some, Santa was riding on the Cummington Fire Truck. Due to the fact there was no snow in Cummington, he had to park his sleigh in a field on Cummington Hill. Santa had cookies for each child who came to visit with him. Thanks to the Cummington Recreation Committee the children and Santa had a great visit.



Molly O'Neil with Santa

For personal, church needs or questions please contact one of the Deacons, John Maruskin at 634-5320, Susan Riley at 634-8055, Kathleen Knox at 634-8041 or Pat Keith 634-5084 or leave a message at the church 634-5508.

From the Librarian's Desk

Cummington legend Bill Streeter—and I do mean legend—is the subject of a well-deserved new book entitled *My Friend Bill: The Life of a Restless Yankee* by the late Paul Schratter. Bill and Paul met just a few short years ago at the Rockridge Retirement Community in Northampton, shared numerous intellectual interests that led to a close friendship, and the nonagenarian first-time author decided that Bill warranted a biography and that he was going to make sure he got one. Although Schratter didn't live to see the finished product, he aptly completed the mission, crafting a real gem that is both fun and informative reading. I know that when the review copy arrived I thought I'd take a quick look at it and then get to it later because I had other things that needed attention. Well, those other things didn't get done right away because I immediately read it cover to cover. It's a pure delight and a welcome complement to Bill's literary efforts. As time marches on the name Bill Streeter is going to become increasingly prominent in the history of Cummington, and now those readers a century or two in our future that want to know who this guy was who left his fingerprints all over the written and artifactual record of our town are going to get a real sense of that "restless Yankee" we've all come to admire so much.

I'm very pleased to announce that Bill has agreed to come to the Bryant Free Library on Saturday, January 16th, from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, for a book-signing and general love fest. Some of the most memorable days we've had at the BFL in my time here have been when Bill was there, and this should be no exception. I know you're going to want your own copy of *My Friend Bill*, and this will be the perfect opportunity to get it. We'll have some refreshments too, so don't miss it.

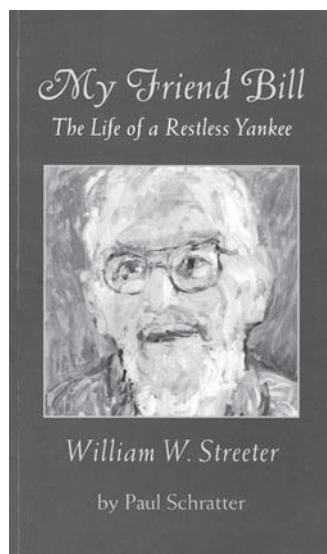
How does it get any better than this? See you at the library!

Mark

Public Hearing for FY16 CDBG grant

The Chesterfield Select Board is holding a Public Hearing regarding the planning for the FY16 Mass. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the Selectboard Meeting room in the Town Hall, 422 Main Road (Rte 143), Chesterfield.

Public comment is invited on the application to the Federal FY 2016 Community Development Block Grant Program for Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Peru, Plainfield, Westhampton and Worthington. This grant provides funds for many programs including housing rehabilitation, social services, family support, elder network and more. The Town of Chesterfield, through its Selectboard, will be responsible for grant oversight. Hilltown Community Development Corporation will assist the Selectboard by preparing the grant application and will oversee implementation of the projects if the grant is awarded.



News from the Cultural Council

The grants for 2016 have been awarded, based on 26 applications. Recipients include Concerts at 7 at the Plainfield Congregational Church, Maureen Shea's Grasshoppers in the Park, several performances for seniors, Jennifer Lee's Native Ways event, the Ashfield Community Theater and many others. An interesting new project planned by David Perkins is the "Hilltown Chautauqua", one part of which was awarded a grant. Together, the funded projects represent an array of music, art, and cultural events for Cummington and surrounding towns.

The Cummington Cultural Council has been joined by Barbara Konieczny and Beckie Kravetz. With the term expiration for Kathryn Jensen, the chair is being shared by Judith Bowerman Slezak and Kim Repas Wachtel. The gallery is being managed by Paula Gottlieb. There are openings in the 2016 calendar: interested artists should call Paula at 634-0066.

The Council has decided against staging a show of wedding portraits, as the logistical challenges were daunting. They will go forward with purchasing materials for displaying work, so that framing artwork will not be required.

Cummington Community Discussion

Based on *Being Mortal* By Atul Gawande

The book *Being Mortal* is a thoughtful discussion of later life preparations for living our older adult years where and how we choose. In the final meeting, the group will include a discussion of how we can think & talk with family, friends, and neighbors about our coming years of our lives.

Discussions will occur on four Tuesdays, starting 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2. We will meet from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in the Cummington Community House Library. The group will be guided by Peg Whalen, our hilltown Regional Outreach Coordinator.

Everyone is welcome. RSVP is preferred but not necessary. For information, registering, or questions, call Barbara at 634-5020 or contact Peg at 404-4566 (text msg okay) or by email, pwhalen@hchcweb.org. If you contact us we can send parking instructions.

Book copies may be found in Cummington's Bryant Free Public Library or your own town library. eBook versions may be available through CW-MARS. The book also can be purchased in paper, Kindle & Nook formats.

Moonlit Hits, Little-known Gems

Pianist Monica Jakuc Leverett will present a benefit performance for the Mahican-Mohawk Trail project at the Plainfield Congregational Church in Plainfield, MA on Sunday, January 24, 2016 at 3 PM. She will present works by Beethoven, Debussy, Schubert and others. Admission is free but donations will be accepted by the Franklin Land Trust for the Mahican-Mohawk Trail. The event is co-sponsored by the Franklin Land Trust and Friends of the Mohawk Trail State Forest.



Friday Night Café

On January 8, Sarah Stockwell-Arthen and friends will present an anti-pipeline fundraiser with lots of good music. On January 22, Rachel Laitman will return, and on January 15 there will be the Friday night jam session—bring your instrument and/or voice and join in.

The Village Church was Kinda' Busy in December



December 6—Special Advent communion potluck



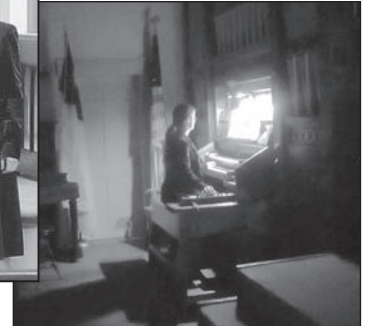
December 13—the Silent Solidarity March in support of pipeline protestors



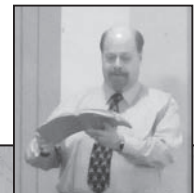
December 20—Christmas Caroling



December 24, Christmas Eve Service, over 50 attended—Clockwise from left: Singing carols; Kim Wachtel and Heather Williams beautifully singing "O Holy Night" accompanied by Rev. Jon; Heather Williams playing "Silent Night" on the chimes as people leave the church in candlelight; .



December 27, Messiah Sing—Counter-clockwise from Top Left: Dario Coletta, tenor; a full house of singers and musicians; Kristi Spicer, soprano; Hannah Berube on clarinet; Lisa Woods and orchestra; Steve Curylo, baritone; Lisa Woods, alto.



Not pictured: Jim Kaminski playing at the Friday Night Café on December 11; Blue Christmas with Plainfield CC and West Cummington CC at the Plainfield Church on December 17.

Thank you to Elaine Holder, Scott Keith, Laura Sheridan, Pat Keith, Brenda Arbib, Sue Riley, Jane Adams, Kathleen Knox, Kathy Harrison, Phoebe Harrison and everyone who made the Messiah Sing a great success.

—John Maruskin

Visit our website at cummingtonvillagechurch.org

The Goodwill Messenger, deadline for the February 2016 issue is January 26. Any personal news, an event, a business to promote with a paid advertisement or anything else worth noting please send to John at mrbllooz@verizon.net or Pat at patakeith@gmail.com, mail to VCC, PO Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026 or leave it in the drop box, marked GWM located in the back entryway of the Village Church. Please be sure to include all the details, and a contact number in case we have questions.

Goodwill Messenger
P.O. Box 76
Cummington, MA 01026

Schedule of Ongoing Events – all at the Community House unless specified

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Family Center Play Group 9:30–11:30 AM	Finance Office (Tax Collector, Treas., Acct.) open 6–7 PM	Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Transfer Station open 7–11 AM
Veterans Agent 9–11 AM	Board of Health 1 st & 3 rd Tues. 7 PM (2nd floor)	Council on Aging Office Hours 9–noon (C.H. Annex)	Town Clerk 6–7:30 PM (2nd floor)	Family Center Play Group 9:30–11:30 AM	Bryant Library open 8:30 AM–12:30 PM
Assessor Office Hours 9:30–11:30 AM (upstairs in C.H.)		Bryant Library open 6–9 PM	Selectboard meets 7 PM		
Bryant Library open 6–9 PM		Transfer Station open 5:30–7:30 PM	Building Inspector 7–9 PM (upstairs in C. H.)		
		Planning Board 2nd, 4th weeks 7 PM	Board of Assessors meets 2 nd , 4 th Thursdays 6–8 PM		

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Free computer services offered by Ken Graf to Cummington senior citizens

634-8860

<http://kensstuff.blogspot.com>

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